

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 AID-05 /074 W

-----141608Z 044018 /53

O P 141442Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2736

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 198

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON SIX

COM THREE FOUR MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0159

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION JANUARY 13-14

REF: BEIRUT 0130 (DTG 121609Z JAN 77)

1. SUMMARY. THE QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE IS EVALUATING LISTS OF WEAPO

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HANDED IN BY THE VARIOUS PARTIES, AND THE PRESIDENT HAS ISSUED A
COMMUNIQUE STATING THAT THE MAJORITY OF PALESTINIAN FORCES HAVE LEFT
LEBANON, WITH THE REMAINDER TO DEPART SOON. THE GOL HAS REQUESTED AN
EXTENSION OF ASF PRESENCE IN LEBANON BEYOND THE ORIGINAL SIX-MONTH
PERIOD, DUE TO END IN APRIL. LEBANESE FRONT LEADERS ARE PREPARING TO
VISIT DAMASCUS AT PRESIDENT ASAD'S INVITATION JAN 19. MUSLIM LEADERS

ARE CONTACTING THEIR CHRISTIAN COUNTERPARTS TO BEGIN A DIALOGUE
EMPHASIZING UNITY AMONG LEBANESE. A NEW DECREE MAY SOON BE ISSUED
COVERING KIDNAPPING AND ACTS OF SABOTAGE. GOL OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO
MEET WITH AMERICAN ADVISORS ON RECONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE, AND ARE ALS
O
HOLDING TALKS WITH THR FRENCH, BRITISH AND ITALIANS FOR AID. AL-HOSS
RETURNS FROM HIS AID-SEEKING MISSION TO THE GULF STATES AND IRAQ. PRE
S
SARKIS IS EXPECTED TO VISIT DAMASCUS SOON FOR TALKS WITH ASAD.END SUM
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2. SUCCESS OF THE PAST TWO DAYS EVALUATED. THE QUADRIPARTITE CMMTE M
ET
JAN 13 UNDER PRES SARKIS TO EVALUATE THE SUCCESS OF THE ARMS COLLECTI
ON
OPERATION AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE PALESTINIAN FORCES FROM LEBANON.
AFTER MEETING, THE COMMITTEE ISSUED A STATEMENT CLAIMING THAT ALL
PARTIES HAD HANDED OVER COMPLETE LISTS OF HEAVY WEAPONS IN THEIR
POSSESSION WHICH HAD BEEN STORED IN SPECIFIED PLACES. L'ORIENT-LE JOU
R
SAYS THE COMMITTEE WILL PROCEED TO VERIFY THE LISTS BEFORE MEETING
AGAIN JAN 20. ACCORDING TO AL AMAL, COL MOHAMMED AL-KHOLY, WHO REPRE-
SENTS SYRIA ON THE COMMITTEE, IS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE LISTS AND DE-
CLARED: "WE SHALL BEGIN RAIDS TO CONFISCATE HEAVY WEAPONS WHICH HAVE
NOT BEEN DELIVERED YET." PHALANGIST LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL JAN 13 TERM
ED
THE COLLECTION EFFORT 75 PERCENT SUCCESSFUL. NEWSPAPERS JAN 13 CARRIE
D
PHOTOGRAPHS OF ARMORED CARS AND PERSONNEL CARRIERS, INCLUDING SOME
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CAPTIONED AS BELONGING TO "AL MURABITUN," BEING DELIVERED TO THE ASF.
AL AMAL SAYS THAT 50 MACHINE GUNS REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF THE PALES-
TINIANS IN THE NORTHERN CAMPS IN NAHR EL-BARED AND BADDAWI. THE PRES
OFFICE ALSO ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE ON THE DEPARTURE OF PALESTINIAN FORCE
S
JAN 13 WHICH SAID "IT APPEARS THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE REGULAR
PALESTINIAN FORCES HAVE LEFT LEBANESE TERRITORY EXCEPT FOR A MINUSCUL
E
PART WHICH IS PREPARING TO LEAVE." AL SHARQ REPORTED THAT UNITS OF TH
E
PLA'S "AIN JALOUT BRIGADE" ALSO SHIPPED OUT OF SIDON JAN 13.

3. EXTENSION OF ASF PRESENCE. THE LEBANESE GOVT HAS REQUESTED THAT TH
E
ARAB LEAGUE EXTEND THE TERM OF THE ASF PRESENCE IN LEBANON FOR ANAD-
DITIONAL SIX MONTHS. THE MANDATE ASSIGNING THE FORCES TO LEBANON IS
RENEWABLE AND DUE TO EXPIRE APR 26, 1977. PAPERS JAN 14 ANNOUNCED THE
ARRIVAL OF A SOUTH YEMENI BATTALION IN BEIRUT TO JOIN THE ASF FORCES.

4. LEBANESE FRONT. THE LEADERS OF THE LEBANESE FRONT MET JAN 13 WITH PRES SARKIS, AND LATER CONFIRMED THAT SULEIMAN FRANGIE AND PIERRE GEMAYEL WILL VISIT DAMASCUS JAN 19 TO DISCUSS THE FRONT'S RELATIONS WITH THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT. FOR HEALTH REASONS, CAMILLE CHAMOUN WILL NOT ACCOMPANY THEM. THE PHALANGE POLITBURO IS PREPARING A WORKING PAPER TO BE SUBMITTED AT ITS FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE JAN 21-23, WHICH WILL CALL FOR A NEW FORMULA WHICH WOULD "GUARANTEE LEBANON'S CONTINUITY."

5. LEBANESE MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE. THE ARAB WORLD REPORTED A MEETING JAN 12 OF THE MUSLIM LEADERS, IMAM MUSA SADR, THE GRAND MUFTI , AND THE HEAD OF THE DRUZE COMMUNITY COUNCIL, WHO DECIDED TO CONTACT CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO HOLD A "MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN SUMMIT CONF" TO EMPHASIZE LEBANESE UNITY.

6. DECREE ON VIOLENCE EXPECTED. AL BAYRAQ SAYS A NEW LEGISLATIVE DECR
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EE
WILL BE ISSUED SOON TO COVER ALL ACTS OF KIDNAPPING AND SABOTAGE.

7. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.

A. THE BEIRUT PRESS CONTINUES ITS HEAVY COVERAGE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE AMERICAN TECHNICAL TEAM.

B. THE LEBANESE GOVT HAS INVITED THE FRENCH GOVT TO SEND A SECOND DEL TO LEBANON TO STUDY THE QUESTION OF RECONSTRUCTION OF FRENCH INSTITUTIONS IN LEBANON.

C. MINISTER OF INTERIOR SALMAN MET WITH THE BRITISH AMB TO DISCUSS TH
E
ACTIVITIES OF VISITING BRITISH EXPERTS, ACCORDING TO L'ORIENT-LE JOUR

.
THEIR DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON HOUSING AND ON REEQUIPPING THE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES.

D. THE ITALIAN AMB CALLED ON THE FON MINISTRY TO DISCUSS LEB-ITALIA
N
COOPERATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELDS OF CONSTRUCTION AND PROVISION OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT.

8. AL-HOSS RETURNS FROM THE GULF. PRIMIN AL-HOSS RETURNS JAN 14 TO LE
B
FROM HIS AID-SEEKING MISSION WHICH HAS TAKEN HIM TO IRAQ, BAHRAIN, QUATAR, THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND OMAN. AS A RESULT OF THE TOUR, ACCORDING TO AL MOHARRIR, A JOINT LEB-ARAB BODY MAY BE SET UP TO RECEIVE AND SUPERVISE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELO
P-
PMENT PROJECTS FOR WHICH IT IS RESPONSIBLE IN ORDER TO PREVENT CONFU-
SION BETWEEN AID FROM ARAB COUNTRIES AND AID RECEIVED FROM AM OR EUROPEAN SOURCES.

9. ASAD-SARKIS TO HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS. AL SHARQ SAYS A DATE FOR PRES
S
SARKIS TO VISIT DAMASCUS IS EXPECTED TO BE FIXED BY THE END OF THE
WEEK. SARKIS IS EXPECTED TO DISCUSS WITH ASAD FINAL STEPS TO
REESTABLISH SECURITY IN LEBANON. THE TALKS WILL REPORTEDLY INITIATE
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REGULAR MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS.
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Message Attributes

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